

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 12 are independent claims.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 12, alleging minor informalities. In response, claim 12 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicant point out to the Examiner that the phrase “the at least one of the wires” is used in line 12 of claim 12 so that it is clear that this feature is the same as the at least one of the wires that is introduced at line 9.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. It is the Examiner’s position that it is unclear whether the feature of the lamp is positively recited. Therefore, claim 12 has been amended to recite that a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting portion and the connector portion is capable of contacting the lamp. The lamp is not a structural element of the claimed socket assembly, but instead has a functional relationship with the socket assembly.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. (US 6,343,942). Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (“APA”). Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Tanigawa et al. (US 6,086,408).

Claims 1 and 6

With respect to independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 6 to recite that the terminal member --is adapted to contact the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires--. Applicant respectfully submits that the APA does not teach or suggest that a lamp socket or a socket assembly of amended independent claims 1 and 6, which includes a monolithic terminal member that is adapted to contact the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires.

For example, the terminals 2 shown in APA Fig. 7 are not capable of contacting the wires 7. Instead, the press-connecting terminals 9 provide a connection between the terminals 2 and the wires 7.

In addition, although in Okamoto the bulb terminal fittings 19 provide a press connection with the wire 41, these terminal fittings 19 are not capable of contacting the connector. *See*, Okamoto at Fig. 11. In addition, although the connector terminal fittings 30 provide a press connection with the wire 41 and project so as to contact terminal fittings of connectors, the terminal fittings 30 are not capable of contacting the lamp. *See* Okamoto at 5: 27-33 & Fig. 11.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 6. Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of submits that if the Examiner withdraws the rejection of claims 2, 7, and 8 at least because of their dependency from claim 1 or claim 6.

In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 3-5 and 8-10 at least because of their dependency from claim 1 or claim 6 and because

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Tanigawa, which was cited by the Examiner in an attempt to show insertion grooves, does not cure the deficiencies in APA discussed above.

Claim 12

With respect to claim 12, Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to recite that the terminal member is capable of contacting the connector, the lamp, and the conductor of a wire. claim 12 in order to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

As discussed above, it is the Examiner's position that APA's terminal members 2 are directly electrically connected to the wires through the press-connecting blades 9. *See*, Specification at Fig. 7. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the APA does not teach or suggest the socket assembly of claim 12. For example, the APA does not teach or suggest that a press-connecting portion of the terminal, which is capable of contacting the conductor of a wire, is provided within the wire connecting portion of the socket body. Instead, the press-connecting terminal 9 is provided on the lamp body 5. Application at Fig. 7.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 12.

Finally, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection dependent claim 13 at least because of its dependency from claim 12 and because Tanigawa, which was cited by the Examiner in an attempt to show insertion grooves, does not cure the deficiencies in APA discussed above.

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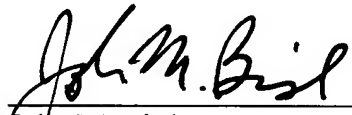
New Claims

In addition, new dependent claims 14-20 have been added in order to provide alternative claim coverage. Applicant respectfully submits, that these claims are allowable at least because of their dependency, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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